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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from the Letzling Heath and Gardelegen

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 13 August to 12 September 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1  
(to Army)

REMARKS

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1. On 11 September 1953, the wood camp east of Jaevenitz quartered personnel who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery and motor transport insignia; black-bordered crimson epaulets, black-bordered black epaulets and blue-bordered black epaulets; some of them with construction and signal insignia. Activity at the camp decreased. [ ] about 200 tents of which only [ ] part appeared to be occupied. Six sedans and 4 trucks were also seen at the camp. The saw frame set up on a forest lane east of the camp worked intermittently.

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2. Between 31 August and 11 September, [ ] the road between Jaevenitz and Uchtspringe was closed because of construction work. Work was being done from a point about 1 km west of Uchtspringe as far as Hottendorf. Traffic was diverted via Jaevenitz and Truestadt. The road is being widened to 8 to 10 meters. After 9 a.m. on 7 and 10 September, [ ] once heard firing by rocket launchers from the area south of Jaevenitz.

3. [ ] a rail shipment of 35 heavy tanks proceeded through Mahlwinkel en route from the direction of Tangerhuette toward Magdeburg about 5:50 p.m. on 2 September.<sup>2</sup> On 9 September, [ ] supply trucks [ ] proceeding through Mahlwinkel toward Letzling Heath.<sup>3</sup>

4. On 14 September, [ ] 2 new barracks buildings were nearing completion at the target range of Hillersleben-Sued.<sup>3</sup>

5. On 14 September, the wood camp at Neuplanken was occupied to capacity.

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6.

25X1 Between 19 August and 4 September, advanced combat practice firing, mostly by tanks, was conducted almost daily at the troop training grounds. On 1 September, [ ] a convoy of about 20 trucks, 10 light AA guns and 250 personnel proceeding through Neuenhofe en route from Haldensleben toward the north.

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On 2 September, a convoy of 15 trucks and 5 x 45-mm AT guns came from the direction of Magdeburg and proceeded toward the Neuaplanken wood camp.

25X1 7. Between 19 August and 4 September, [ ] Soviet officers and EM tried to mix with the German population on Saturdays and Sundays. The military post commandant of Neuhausenleben was repeatedly seen drinking in public with the chief of the S D Kreis organization and VP officers. It was rumored that Soviet soldiers had been permitted to marry German women. On 23 August, there was a football match between a Soviet team from Camp Neuaplanken and a German team of the tractor factory in Haldensleben. On this occasion, [ ] 30 trucks, 15 sedans, 1 military band and about 1,000 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery and motor traffic insignia; blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia; and some black-bordered crimson epaulets. [ ] the Soviet team had previously played against a German team in Dessau.

25X1 8. About 2:35 p.m. on 1 September, 4 SP guns were seen proceeding through Neuhausenleben railroad station toward Magdeburg. About 6:20 p.m., 2 boxcars loaded with ammunition, 1 boxcar loaded with personnel and 1 flatcar carrying truck [ ] and 1 field kitchen were seen proceeding through Neuhausenleben railroad station toward Magdeburg. About 7 a.m. on 6 September, two troop trains which had come from the direction of Magdeburg were unloaded at Haldensleben railroad station. Both trains carried 15 AA guns and a sizeable number of trucks mounting AA machine guns. [ ]

25X1 9. After 10 September, the barracks installation at the northeastern exit of Hillersleben quartered a mixed AAA, artillery and tank unit of a total of 150 officers and about 700 EM. [ ]

25X1 10. On 11 September, [ ] the female population did not dare to leave their houses without male protection after dark, because the number of rapes had increased recently. [ ] that the Soviet soldiers had been permitted to buy alcohol at German restaurants.

25X1 11. [ ]

25X1 12. On 3 September, the Remonte Schule quartered a motorcycle unit. On 11 August, 18 motorcycles with sidecars [ ] and 4 radio trucks [ ] left the installation for exercises in the Zichtauer Hills; the unit returned to the barracks installation on 16 August. Between 23 August and 1 September, a small signal unit was observed practicing the construction of telephone lines in the Zichtauer Hills. When the unit returned to the barracks installation in the afternoon of 1 September, [ ]

25X1 13. Between 13 and 18 August, an exercise was held in the area of the Fliegerhorst Kasene. For this exercise, 12 trucks which towed mortars, 1 truck occupied by personnel and 1 jeep occupied by officers, arrived in the area from the direction of Ackendorf via Isenschnibbe. [ ]

25X1 The commanding officer of [ ] this unit was called Sklarov (fmu). [ ]

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[Redacted]

25X1 14. About 3:40 p.m. on 19 August, [Redacted] a convoy of 13 trucks which towed mortars, 2 tank trucks and 1 jeep proceeding through Letzlingen toward Born-Haldensleben. [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted] On 30 August, 25 flatcars, 6 boxcars and 1 passenger car which had come from the direction of Stendal, were unloaded at Gardelegen railroad station. [Redacted] 22 trucks, 2 ambulances and 22 canvas-covered artillery pieces besides officers and EM. [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted]

25X1 1. [Redacted] Comment. The reduced occupation of the wood camp southeast of Jaevenitz is probably connected with increased training activities as they are normally observed toward the end of the summer training period.

25X1 [Redacted] the Third Shock Army. The Soviet football team was probably formed by the 7th Gds Tank Div because a team of the division had previously played in Dessau. [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted]

25X1 2. [Redacted] Comment. [Redacted] component units of the Third Shock Army were detrained in Gardelegen on 30 August. On 1 September, [Redacted] a tank detachment of the Eighth Gds Army. [Redacted] a tank shipment [Redacted] [Redacted] was dispatched from Haldensleben to the Halle area. The shipment observed on 2 September is probably identical with a tank shipment which was seen [Redacted] on a siding of Wolmirstedt on the same day. [Redacted] [Redacted] . On 6 September, two troop trains with component units of the 3d Gds AAA Div from Magdeburg were possibly unloaded in Haldensleben. Most of [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted]

25X1 3. [Redacted] Comment. It appears that component units of the 19th Gds Mocz Div which had practiced in the Letzling Heath area, returned to their barracks installation at the northeastern exit of Hillersleben on 10 September. It is not yet clear, whether the two new barracks buildings mentioned were in the billeting area of the barracks installation at the northwestern exit of Hillersleben, as this was indicated by a previous report [Redacted] or whether these buildings have been erected at the beginning of the Hillersleben-Salchau target range. [Redacted]

25X1 [Redacted]

25X1 4. [Redacted] Comment. [Redacted] tank unit of the 19th Gds Mocz Div in Hillersleben.

25X1 5. [Redacted] Comment. On 3 September, the Remonte Schule probably quartered the unidentified motorcycle battalion of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div. [Redacted] [Redacted] . The small signal unit observed probably belongs to the radar set located northeast of the Remonte Schule. These data are no sufficient evidence for the presence in the Fliegerhorst Kaserne of the 598th Mtz Rifle Regt of the division. [Redacted] the mortar unit belonged to the Third Shock Army.

25X1 6. [Redacted] Comment. The designation of SsU-1 for the SP gun equipped with a model A-19 122-mm gun on an JS-2 chassis is reported for the first time. The model 1931/44 "A-19 S" 122-mm SP gun is not fitted with a muzzle brake. According to observations made in East Germany, the model 1944 "D-25 S" 122-mm SP, which is fitted with a muzzle brake is the most frequent type of SP gun. There is a possibility that the SP gun without muzzle brake has been given the official designation "SsU-1", while the SP gun with muzzle brake has been renamed "JSsU-122".

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